

**U DX257**

**Correspondence between Philip Larkin  
and Brenda Moon**

**1962-1985**

**Accession number:** 1999/05

**Biographical Background:**

Brenda Elizabeth Moon was born in North Staffordshire in 1931 and educated at King Edward's Grammar School for Girls, Camp Hill, Birmingham, and St. Hilda's College, Oxford, where she read Greats and graduated in 1953. She gained a postgraduate diploma in librarianship at University College London in 1955 and served as an Assistant Librarian in the University of Sheffield until 1962. She was appointed to the University Library at Hull as Sub Librarian (Cataloguing) from February 1962. Philip Larkin had been in post as University Librarian since 1955, with Arthur Wood as his Deputy. Miss Moon was promoted to a newly-created second post of Deputy Librarian from October 1967 and immediately took particular responsibility for equipping and the move into the new library building until 1970. She was Acting Librarian for six months during session 1970/71 whilst Larkin was on study leave at Oxford. The sudden death of Mr Wood in 1971 left her as sole Deputy, with a wide range of responsibilities and activities. Latterly she was involved in the selection of the GEAC automated library system, to which there are frequent references in this correspondence. Her major professional work, *Periodicals for South-East Asia Studies* (Mansell), was published in 1979. She resigned on 31 December 1979 having been appointed Librarian to the University of Edinburgh.

**Custodial history:**

Donated by Brenda Moon, Edinburgh, 11 March 1999

**Description:**

This collection consists of fifty seven items of correspondence from Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon, including Christmas cards, postcards, letters and notes. The correspondence covers the period in which Moon and Larkin worked together at Hull University, 1962-1979, and also contains letters updating Moon on library and personal matters after this date when Moon had moved to Scotland. In addition, the collection contains a library keepsake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Brynmor Jones Library in 1979, on which is written a handwritten Larkin manuscript poem to Moon

**Extent:** 58 items

**Related material:**

Archives of the University of Hull, Brynmor Jones Library [U LIB]  
Papers of Philip Larkin [U DPL]

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Brenda Moon

U DX257/1	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip Larkin' (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1962
U DX257/2	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip Larkin' (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1963
U DX257/3	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1964
U DX257/4	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1965
U DX257/5	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip Larkin' (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1967
U DX257/6	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1966
U DX257/7	Christmas Card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin], with message (sent to Brenda Moon) Includes a hand-pressed fern and small flowers on the front. 1 item	Dec 1968
U DX257/8	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Acknowledges gift of piece of [her] birthday cake 1 item	15 Apr 1969
U DX257/9	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, the Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Brenda Moon Offering sympathy on behalf of the Library staff following the death of BEM's mother 1 item	3 Oct 1969
U DX257/10	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon Comments on the motto of the 1st Essex Rifles The card is of Blickling Hall, near Aylsham, Norfolk 1 item	9 Aug 1969
U DX257/11	Hand drawn card. Brenda Moon to Philip Larkin Wishing him well at All Souls College, Oxford 1 item	Sep 1970

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U DX257/12	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, All Souls College, Oxford, to Brenda Moon Acknowledges receipt of DX257/11; has started work in the Bodleian Library. Enclosed is Zoological illustration (Bodleian Picture Book no. 4) (Oxford: Bodleian Library, [1951?]) 1 item	17 Sep 1970
U DX257/13	Handwritten letter signed. Brenda Moon, Brynmor Jones Library, The University of Hull, to Philip Larkin Acknowledges receipt of DX257/12; preparations for the opening of the new library building. Includes envelope containing scribbled notes on jazz by PAL 2 items	24 Sep 1970
U DX257/14	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, All Souls College, Oxford, to Brenda Moon Expressing sympathy following her car crash 1 item	23 Oct 1970
U DX257/15	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin], with comments (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1970
U DX257/16	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon Comments on East Anglia University Library. The card is of the Royal Hotel, Norwich, postmarked Leicester 1 item	26 Nov 1971
U DX257/17	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1971
U DX257/18	Gift card. Brenda Moon to Mrs [Eva] Larkin: gift of orange cake, with strawberries With envelope containing scribbled note of thanks from Philip Larkin 2 items	May 1972
U DX257/19	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon On holiday in Scotland; midges; the search for daily newspapers. The card is of a 'Wildcat in the heather' and was posted in Kinlochewe 1 item	26 Aug 1972
U DX257/20	Philip Larkin's change of address card, announcing removal to 105 Newland Park, Hull 1 item	1974

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U DX257/21	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1972
U DX257/22	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1973
U DX257/23	Card, with handwritten note, from Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon [to accompany gift of flowers whilst BEM in hospital] 1 item	May 1974
U DX257/24	Card from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, to Brenda Moon [in hospital] Good wishes, plus library news 1 item	6 May 1974
U DX257/25	Postcard from Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon [in Beverley Cottage Hospital]. The card is of Nostell Priory, postmarked Hull 1 item	8 May 1974
U DX257/26	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park Hull, to Brenda Moon Visit to library by Mr Aziz of National University of Malaysia 1 item	11 May 1974
U DX257/27	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1974
U DX257/28	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Thanks for cake; his New Year 'celebration'; library minor works bid 1 item	29 Dec 1974
U DX257/29	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Leicester, to Brenda Moon Party to celebrate Larkin's 20 years in post; thanks her for her support 1 item	23 March 1975
U DX257/30	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon On holiday at Loch Goil; reading novels; the dullness of television. The card contains a view of Loch Goil 1 item	c.1975

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U DX257/31	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon Will see in New Year at Allandale. The card is of Housesteads, and was posted at Hexham 1 item	31 Dec 1975
U DX257/32	Postcard. Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon On holiday in the Ardnamurchan region. The card is of Kilchoan village, and was posted on the Isle of Mull 1 item	6 Sep 1976
U DX257/33	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1976
U DX257/34	Note from Philip Larkin to Brenda Moon on a Brynmor Jones Library compliments slip, to accompany gift of packet of cards. With specimen card entitled 'Just a note from Brenda' 2 items	c.1975
U DX257/35	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Thanks for card and cake; his mother; library matters (equipment grant estimates, etc.) 1 item	29 Dec 1976
U DX257/36	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Leicester, to Brenda Moon Thanks for her letter of sympathy on behalf of colleagues following the death of his mother 1 item	20 Nov 1977
U DX257/37	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Leicester, to Brenda Moon Thanks for her personal letter of sympathy following the death of his mother; absence prolonged owing to funeral and the 'Booker' [prize award ceremony] 1 item	20 Nov 1977
U DX257/38	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1978
U DX257/39	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Expresses sympathy following the sudden illness of her father 1 item	14 Dec 1978

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U DX257/40	Christmas card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Dec 1979
U DX257/41	Birthday card. Signed 'Philip' [Larkin] (sent to Brenda Moon) 1 item	Apr 1979
U DX257/42	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Library matters at Hull and Edinburgh; the new Geac computer system; student troubles 1 item	12 Feb 1980
U DX257/43	Photocopy typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Library matters; Edinburgh acquaintances, including Elspeth Davie; problems with the Geac system; arrival of Tom Graham (her replacement as Deputy Librarian); preservation of literary manuscripts 1 item	13 Sep 1980
U DX257/44	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Appointment of new sub- librarian in charge of Acquisitions (David M Baker); the Geac system; Professor JP Kenyon's move to St Andrew's; death of Andrew Brown, Finance Officer 1 item	1 Feb 1981
U DX257/45	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Visit from Leeds University Staff to see Geac system; financial cuts in the University; had been made chairman of the Poetry Book Society; arrival of David Baker; Wendy Mann celebrates 30 years as a member of Library staff 1 item	12 Jun 1981
U DX257/46	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Haydon Bridge, Hexham, to Brenda Moon Arrangements for his visit to Edinburgh; Bellingham Show (and 'Show Saturday') 1 item	30 Aug 1981

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U DX257/47	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Library matters; effects of financial cuts; his hi-fi system and increasing deafness; forthcoming ITV programme about him; had found hedgehog in his garden 1 item	31 Oct 1981
U DX257/48	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Cringletie House Hotel, Peebles, to Brenda Moon Thanks her for his visit to Edinburgh the previous day 1 item	9 Sep 1981
U DX257/49	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Library matters; financial and staffing cuts; Geac; on being sixty; gardening; chairmanship of the Library Committee 1 item	4 Aug 1982
U DX257/50	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon . Proposed visit to Edinburgh; Geac 1 item	9 Nov 1982
U DX257/51	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Thanks her for her hospitality after a symposium on W.H. Auden in Edinburgh; his purchase of a new car 1 item	7 Dec 1982
U DX257/52	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon Reception of 'Required Writing'; Brynmor Jones' 80th birthday luncheon; library financial problems; Betty Mackereth to retire 1 item	2 Jan 1984
U DX257/53	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Brenda Moon Reception to mark Betty Mackereth's retirement 1 item	6 Jun 1984
U DX257/54	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon His Oxford D.Litt.; memorial service for John Betjeman; his health; staff changes in the library; Betty Mackereth's retirement party; death of Dick Chilton; Vice - Chancellor to retire. With envelope 1 item	6 Jul 1984

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| U DX257/55 | Photocopy handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon<br>University's financial problems; staff restructuring; Geac problems; the new Vice-Chancellor; Monica Jones; his weight problems; declines to give a talk on John Wain (but offers his opinion on him)<br>1 item                         | 5 Dec 1984   |
| U DX257/56 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Brenda Moon<br>Declines invitation to attend a John Wain exhibition at Edinburgh University; his medical problems; had met the new Vice - Chancellor, William Taylor<br>1 item   | 7 April 1985 |
| U DX257/57 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Brenda Moon<br>His operation and illness; his Companion of Honour award; departure of David Baker<br>1 item  | 7 Aug 1985   |
| U DX257/58 | Keepsake. Printed on the Brynmor Jones Library's Albion Press to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Library on 8 March 1979.<br>Contains the poem 'New eyes each year', with 'The daily things we do' added in manuscript by Philip Larkin 'specially for Brenda [Moon] to commemorate this edition'. 1 folded sheet<br>1 item | Mar 1979     |